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The Underwood Law.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Underwood appeared in the debate as the champion of the tariff law bearing his name. The measure is not as he intimated and passed it through the last House; but the Senate's work was accepted by him, and hence his right to speak for it. He stood up for it stoutly, and insisted that the measure was when passed, and still is, all right, a redemption of democratic promises and a good thing in itself.

On the other side, appropriately enough, appeared Mr. Penrose, who had led the opposition when the measure was before the Senate. He was as familiar with his side of the controversy as Mr. Underwood with his, and the Senate heard two interesting statements.

Earlier in the House, a similar thing had happened. The champion of the same measure there had been Mr. Kitchin, familiar with the subject as the former leading lieutenant of Mr. Underwood, while the opposition had been led by Mr. Longworth, a former lieutenant of Mr. Payne on the ways and means committee.

Thus is guaranteed after the holidays a tariff debate in general and particular by men qualified to speak, not only from a study of the subject as a whole, but from participation in the congressional contest out of which the Underwood law emerged. Theories will be expounded and conditions described by men accepted by the country as representative of their respective schools of economic thought.

The present question falls into two parts: (1) Would the Underwood law have justified itself in time if the war had not broken out? and (2), taking matters as they stand, what should be done toward raising the revenue both parties confess is now necessary?

The first proposition is—borrowing a word from the President—"academic." It will never be settled, the friends of the law continuing to reply in the affirmative; the enemies in the negative. The war came, and the law "fell down." It is the second proposition which can and must be settled; and much of importance to both parties and the country depends on how it is settled.

Although necessary, taxes are never welcome. Lay them where you will, there is always complaint. Just now there is very considerable complaint, growing out of the President's suggestions about sources of new supplies. He is dumb as to whisky, beer and tobacco, and yet all three articles are luxuries, and all could stand higher assessments than those now imposed.

But the ball has not opened. As it progresses we should get much light on what should be done in justice to all. Politics will inevitably figure; but not to a greater extent than in times past, or than we may expect to encounter any time in the future.

The question of eugenics has become less important in Europe than the problem of preventing populations from being killed off faster than they can be obtained.

Getting mentioned for the presidency is one of the easiest things a statesman does just now.

In the discussion of Mexican affairs, Gen. Villa at least manages to hang onto his title.

McCombs and Wilson.

Upon his return to New York from the meeting of the democratic national committee held in this town, Chairman McCombs, in reply to a question, said:

"President Wilson will be renominated without opposition. Not only was there not the slightest suggestion of opposition to him at the opening of Congress and at the meeting of the committee the other day, but the enthusiasm for the President was very marked. His renomination will come as the unquestioned expression of the entire party."

This we may readily accept. Those democrats who are expecting a demonstration of some kind by Mr. Bryan are neither numerous nor influential. From no other quarter is there even an imagined opposition. All other democratic leaders associate either by reason of ability or high position with the presidency are believed to be definitely on the reservation. They are declared Wilson men.

Mr. McCombs found the national committee enthusiastic. That may hardly be said of Congress. Among the democrats of that body there are many who feel anxious. Things are by no means as rosy as they could wish. They favor Mr. Wilson for leader again, but believe that it will be difficult to re-elect him. However, they will do all in their own power to that end. If the chance with him is slender, it would be slender still with another—any other.

Asked concerning the report of opposition to himself for re-election to

his office, Mr. McCombs laughed and replied: "I am not worrying."

Strictly speaking, the office Mr. McCombs holds is appointive. A presidential candidate chooses his campaign manager, and the national committee of his party confirms the choice. The matter, therefore, will rest with Mr. Wilson. If he says the word Mr. McCombs will succeed himself.

Will he say the word? Nobody knows. Mr. Wilson himself may not know at this time. His relations with Mr. McCombs remain friendly, but there are men very near him who would be glad of a new chairman. They may suggest a change when the time comes.

The conditions will require an eastern man for manager, and one in the confidence of the business world. The lower south will again be certain. In that quarter the ticket will be voted. Mr. Wilson may not be beloved down there, but he will not be resisted at the polls. But, in the east, the important states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, which at the latest pollings showed republican majorities, will have to be fought for, and the man to plan and conduct the battle must know the field.

And maybe if Mr. McCombs is chosen and again pilots Mr. Wilson he can be induced to accept some reward in the way of office for his services.

A Civil Retirement Movement.

With fifteen members of the House voluntarily taking under consideration the question of old-age retirement for the civil workers of the government, there is a ray of hope for the veterans of the civil service. It is not, of course, by any means assured that this movement will lead to legislation; certainly it is not at all likely at the present session. But from the study that these fifteen members propose to make of the matter, with a consultation of the practices of other governments, it is possible that some action will follow. For it is impossible to consider this matter at all closely without realizing the urgent need, from the government's own viewpoint, of a system of retirements that will clear the service of the superannuated and keep the standard of efficiency high.

The only alternative to a retirement system, short of the retention of the elder workers out of charity on constantly dropping salaries, is to fix an age limit beyond which the government will not employ a clerk. Against such a hard and fast rule there are unanswerable objections. In the first place, there is no positive limit at which a man or a woman ceases to be useful in a clerical capacity. To work such a rule would cause a loss to the service. The army and the navy are today constantly being deprived of the services of their most efficient officers because of the working of the compulsory retirement law. But the military and naval officers who are turned out of active service on account of age are all retained as subject to call. They may be restored to active duty at any time when emergency arises. Not so, however, with the veteran civil employee, who, after reaching a certain age, is dropped peremptorily on account of his years. He is lost to the government service forever, and all his experience and his special knowledge and his veteran usefulness are gone.

As a business proposition it is hard to see why the United States has dilly-dallied so long with this question. Any actuarial reckoning of the situation will demonstrate the losses entailed, both in the retention of the superannuated on a sliding scale of diminishing pay and in the dismissal of clerks who are still valuable, but who have reached a certain number of years. There is no middle ground of administration short of a retirement system that does not waste resources, and meanwhile the government is imposing a cruel hardship upon those who have served it well for years by holding the sword of dismissal over their heads.

So far from being obscure, the office of Vice President is expected to provide the chief element of contest at the St. Louis convention.

If there is a reconciliation between Barnes and Roosevelt, those who arranged it should have a chance at the Nobel prize.

The fact that the Oscar II has arrived does not necessarily imply that as a peace ship it has gotten anywhere.

It is now to be feared that Dumba got home just in time to give his government some bad advice.

Practical Home Preserving.

There is one thing to be borne steadily in mind whenever the "Fourteen Opportunities" to do practical charity work as a Christmas gift are contemplated. Every dollar given on this account will help to hold a family together. If these fourteen cases are not relieved, if the money necessary to maintain them during the next twelve months is not provided, these families may have to separate. Mothers and children will perhaps be parted, the children to go into institutions, the mothers, it may be, to work heartbroken at some drudging toil that will just keep body and soul together.

The mainspring of action in most of these cases, the thing that makes the cases most worthy from the charity point of view, is the desperate endeavor of parents to provide homes for their children. Men and women will make any sacrifices to accomplish this. Deserted wives will slave at the most exhausting tasks to earn a pittance for the maintenance of a roof over the heads of their children. This is one of the great forces of nature that make for civilization. It must be helped, in cases of extreme need, by assistance

from without, for there come times when even the great parent motive will not avail against adversity.

In all organized charity work the first principle is to keep the home intact. That is one of the primal purposes of the summer outings, to give the mothers strength to maintain their families. These annual summer charities, it is positively known, have prevented the break-up of many homes, that are now comfortable and secure after passing some temporary stress. Just so with these "Fourteen Opportunities" that organized charity offers to the community as a Christmas chance. Every giver to this fund may feel that he or she has made an investment in home preservation. No higher purpose could be served.

Watch Your Purses!

Many thefts are reported to the police from the shopping district, the victims being mainly women, whose purses have been taken from their pockets, or their handbags slipped from them in the crowds. This argues carelessness on the part of those who go into the stores. Specific warnings have been given and details of plain clothes men have been provided by the police superintendent to guard against this form of theft, but apparently without full effect. Shoppers must be on their guard at every turn. They must not lay down their purses for even a moment. At their elbow is always the potential thief, sometimes a professional, shrewdly watching for opportunities, again amateurs, possibly persons of honest inclinations who are suddenly tempted beyond resistance by the sight of money left within easy reach. It is true that shopping at this time is attended with certain difficulties, as bundles have to be carried about from counter to counter and from store to store, and purses must be produced at every turn. But with the fact in view that thefts are being committed hourly in the stores and on the crowded streets, every person should be scrupulously attentive to the business of safeguarding his own property. Not even all the police of Washington can prevent thefts if the people are careless in handling money.

The enormous figures indicating the daily cost of war are accompanied by an almost unanimous belief that it is not worth the money.

Sometimes it looks as if Capt. Boyd Ed permits himself to be resentful when he ought to be congratulating himself.

No more exploration trips are planned for T. R. unless a possible visit to Chicago next June may be described as one.

Woman suffrage may be expected to have some suggestions to offer as to platform building in both St. Louis and Chicago.

It is hoped that the chips that Austria seems inclined to put on her shoulder were not made in Germany.

Being a prisoner in Sing Sing may be pleasant enough, but being warden means fearfully hard work.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Juvenile Sophistication.

"I told my youngest boy there wasn't any Santa Claus."
"Did he seem sorry?"
"No. Said he knew it all the time, but was trying to keep it from me so as not to spoil my Christmas."

Snow.

How often of the snow we've sung
As wintry winds sweep through the trees.
It makes folks laugh when they are young
And later only makes them sneeze.

Confusing.

"Do you approve of slang?"
"No," replied Mr. Cumrox. "It's too much trouble. It's as hard to know what slang is permissible as it is to guess the right implement for every course at a big dinner."

If you don't agree with a man as to the way to have peace he immediately accuses you of wanting war.

Once in a while you meet a reformer who wants the general public to be so good that his own particular vices won't count for much in the average.

Old Timers.

The same ornaments had been used from year to year to trim the Christmas tree. The youngster looked the assortment over and then remarked: "That won't be a Christmas tree. That'll be a chestnut tree."

Perpetual Puzzle.

The sages bid us have a care,
Nor lightly live and shiftily,
That we may build a fortune fair
By guarding pennies thriftily.
But when the fortune is attained,
What course will you pursue with it?

How many ask in accents pained,
"What am I going to do with it?"
They also say that wisdom great
Is more than riches glittering;
Yet scholars often cultivate
Frivolity and frittering.
When wondrous knowledge is man's own,
He takes on toil anew with it,
And asks in a discouraged tone,
"What am I going to do with it?"

Wanted—Success, Not Logic.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.
The logical candidate of a party is often the one that cannot be elected.

You May!

From the Columbia State.
Could you call a belated Christmas shopper a counter-irritant?

Woodward & Lothrop

New York—WASHINGTON—Paris.

Our Great Main Floor Display of the Finest Gifts.

Jewelry, Watches, Diamonds, Gold and Platinum Jewelry, Sterling Silverware, Sheffield Silver, Fine Plated Silver, Cutlery, Fancy Handbags, Leather Goods, Opera and Beaded Bags, Fans, Stationery, Desk and Library Furnishings, Clocks, Photo Frames, Perfumery, Bric-a-Brac, Marbles and many other distinctive and beautiful articles whose worth and beauty are beyond question.

These are the finest assortments of gift merchandise obtainable, and they are still equal to every demand, from the least expensive to the most exquisite and costly.

There are gifts from all over the world here—made by the best artists and craftsmen—men and women who by inheritance and constant application to the designing and production of this class of lovely merchandise reach a stage in the mastery of the art that readily distinguishes them as far above the average.

In many instances, especially in Jewelry, Leather Goods, Fans and Bags, the selection is limited to an article of one design only. Thus besides its superior intrinsic and artistic value, it has the added value of distinctiveness and individuality.

During this last week of Christmas shopping we are prepared in each section to render a service that shall not be found wanting in any respect.

Diamonds and Precious Jewelry.

Platinum and gold in a beautiful assortment of artistic designs, mounted with diamonds alone, or with diamonds in connection with pearls, sapphires, onyx and other exquisite gems.

FOR WOMEN—SOLITAIRE RINGS, CLUSTER RINGS, DINNERS RINGS, PRINCESS RINGS, BROOCHES, BAR PINS, LINK BRACELETS, EXPANSION BRACELETS, LORNGONS, EARRINGS, LA VALLIERES AND PENDANTS.

FOR MEN—RINGS, FULL DRESS SETS, SCARF PINS, CUFF LINKS, CUFF BUTTONS.

Gold Jewelry and Novelties.

Distinctive and one-of-a-kind designs and the staple articles that men and women require for completing a modish toilette. Never have there been so many fine moderately priced selections.

FOR WOMEN—FRIENDSHIP BROOCHES, CAMEO BROOCHES, BAR PINS, LINGERIE CLASPS, HANDY PINS, LORNGONS, BRACELETS, BANGLES, SLIPPER BUCKLES, BEAD NECKLACES, LOCKETS, CROSSES, NECK CHAINS, LORNGON CHAINS, RINGS, VANITY CASES, CARD CASES, MESH BAGS, MESH PURSES.

FOR MEN—RINGS, WATCH GUARDS, CUFF LINKS, CUFF BUTTONS, TIE CLASPS, COLLAR BUTTONS, DRESS STUDS, CIGAR CUTTERS, KEY RINGS AND CHAINS, VEST SETS, GOLD BUCKLES ON BELTS, SCARF PINS, GOLD-MOUNTED CIGARETTE HOLDERS, GOLD-MOUNTED PIPES, PENCILS, PEN KNIVES, CIGARETTE AND CIGAR CASES.

The Finest Watches

An extensive assortment is shown of the popular Wrist and Novelty Watches, embracing all of the distinctive models that are favored in gold, silver, enameled and the less expensive makes. Expansion Bracelet Watches, Strap Watches, Watches in odd and novelty shapes; Sautoir Watches, Pendant Watches.

STANDARD WATCHES—WALTHAM, HOWARD AND ELGIN WATCHES IN GOLD AND GOLD FILLED CASES; 7, 15, 17 AND 21 JEWEL MOVEMENTS; DISTINCTIVE CASES; VARIETY GREAT ENOUGH TO PLEASE ALL.

WATCH ACCESSORIES—WALDEMAR VEST CHAINS, FROM \$9 TO \$45; COAT CHAINS AT VARIOUS PRICES AND WATCH FOBs IN SEAL AND LOCKET STYLES.

Sterling Silver Jewelry.

For Women—Card Cases, Vanity Cases, Cigarette Cases, Coin Cases, Mesh Bags, Eyeglass Cases, Photo Cases, Lorgnons, Lorgnon Chains, Rosaries and Scapular Cases. Vanity Cases, range from \$6.00 to \$25.00.

For Men—Cigar Cases, Match Cases, Cigarette Cases, Cigarette Holders, Cigar Holders, Cigar Cutters, Belt Buckles, Belts with sterling silver buckles, Coat Chains, Cuff Links, Pen Knives, Pencils, Whiskey Flasks, Key Rings and Key Chains.

Sterling Silver Novelty Jewelry—Unique and beautiful designs of a high character, set with semi-precious stones, such as white stones, amethysts, pearls, black and white effects. Flexible Link Bracelets, \$5.00 to \$8.00; Bar Pins, \$1.50 to \$6.50; Brooches, \$4.50 to \$12.00; Earrings, \$1.25 to \$8.00; Rings, \$2.50 to \$7; Hat Pins, 50c to \$1.00 pair; Necklaces, \$3.00 to \$5.00.

Marbles and Art Wares.

Gifts of Marbles and Art Wares are highly desirable. The high artistic merit and the beauty of the subjects and the marble itself assure our selections a place of honor.

Elegant Marble Electric Lamps, numerous shapes and sizes, \$35 to \$125; Marble Bowls for table centers, \$1.25 to \$6; Marble Pedestals, white and green, beautifully marked and carved, \$10 to \$32.50; Marble Figures and Busts, \$6 to \$48. The popular Boston Plastic Ware is featured in many statues and busts of various types, and fancy pieces of a highly decorative character; 25c to \$4 piece.

STERLING SILVER TABLEWARE.

Gifts that will always be treasured by the recipients, and that will be passed on to coming generations as heirlooms. Sugar and Cream Sets, \$12 to \$16; Bonbon Baskets, \$4.50 to \$15; Fruit Baskets, \$28 to \$75; Bread Trays, \$10 to \$28.50; Sandwich Plates, \$11 to \$19; Salad or Fruit Bowls, \$11 to \$25; Sherbet Sets, \$33.25; Candlesticks, \$3 to \$8.50; Mayonnaise Sets, \$10; Vases in numerous styles, from bud to full flowers, \$1.25 to \$48; Cheese and Cracker Sets, \$17.50 to \$25.

Sheffield Silver and Hammered Silver in a variety of designs and styles—Baking Dishes, Vegetable Dishes, Platters, Cheese and Cracker Dishes, etc.

STERLING SILVER FLATWARE.

The various early colonial and American patterns are strongly represented, and the very best makers. Our stocks offer unusual facilities for deliberate choice from many beautiful effects. The appointment of the table will be correct if this silver is given.

Teaspoons, \$10.50 to \$15 dozen; Dessert Spoons, \$20 to \$25 dozen; Tablespoons, \$25 to \$32 dozen; Dessert Forks, \$20 dozen; Bouillon Spoons, \$15 dozen; Butter Spreaders, \$14 dozen; Berry Spoons, \$5 each; Jelly Spoons, \$1.50 to \$3 each; Cream Ladles, \$1.50 to \$2.25 each; Gravy Ladles, \$2.50 to \$5.00; Pie and Cake Servers, \$2.25 to \$3.50; Cold Meat Forks, \$2.00 to \$6.50 each.

A most complete showing of Silver and Plated Silver Knives and Forks, in Dinner and Breakfast sizes; Joseph Rodger's and Landers, Frary and Clark's Carving Sets, some with genuine stag or horn handles.

OPERA BAGS AND FANS.

Lovely Silk and Beaded Bags are just now at the height of fashion; many fashionable shapes and colors; magnificent silks, veiled with gold and metal laces; rich silks and velvets, combined in the new Muff Bags; Beaded Bags in the elaborate white and colored floral effects. Fancy Silk and Velvet Opera Bags, \$2.00 to \$21.00 each. Beaded Bags, with amber, gold, nickel or silver frames, \$2.50 to \$3.50.

Ostrich Feather Fans, in plain colors of yellow, black, white and pink, and also in combination shades, with amber or shell mountings; large and beautiful shapes, \$5 to \$50.

HANDBAGS AND LEATHER NOVELTIES.

Leather, Silk, Velvet and other materials. Velvet Bags, trimmed with cut steel and fur, also Silk Bags, lined with novelty silks, in many odd and distinctive shapes, with amber, shell and costly frames. The Leather Bags embrace pin seal and morocco leathers and are very rich and beautiful; some with inner compartment. Bags are priced from \$5 to \$20.

Leather Novelties—Safety Match Cases, Tobacco Pouches, Pin Cushions, Whisk Cases, Jewelry Cases, Handkerchief Cases, Tie Cases, Flasks, Pocket Books, Medicine Cases, Emergency Cases; also Traveling Cases, Overnight Bags, Lunch Kits, Automobile Lunch and Tea Baskets.

BRIC-A-BRAC AND CERAMICS.

The Bric-a-Brac Room, which has become so widely known for its selections, is rich in gift suggestions. Many exclusive and one-of-a-kind pieces from the best studios of the old world. A broad representation of the finest Japanese wares—exclusive decorations.

Japanese China Dresser and Manicure Sets, four and five pieces; 50c to \$6 each; Japanese China Vases, odd and unusual shapes, exquisite colorings and designs, 50c to \$10; Awaji Ware in Bowls, Pots, Vases and other pieces, 25c to \$4; Kowang Ware is an entirely new design; hand painted, \$1.50 to \$4; Renge Ware, elaborate decorations in delicate tones, \$2 to \$4; Danish Pottery, 35c to \$3.75 the piece or set. Numerous other designs and gift selections are here.

Woodward & Lothrop.

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